

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (FANNIN), SA

SUBJECT: CODEL FANNIN'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA JAN. 16-19

REF JIDDA 212

1. EMBASSY CONSID*RS VISIT OF CODEL FANNIN TO SAUDI ARABIA TO HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDINGLY SUCCESSFUL. WE BELIEVE THE CODEL DEPARTED SAUDI ARABIA WITH A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BONDS OF MUTUAL INTEREST THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SAUDI ARABIA, AND WHICH MUST BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED IN YEARS AHEAD. SAUDI OFFICIALS WERE GRATIFIED BY THE VISIT WHICH WAS THE LARGEST AND HIGHEST RANKI*G VISIT OF ANY CONGR*SSIONAL OR SENATOR*AL GROUP TO THE PENINSULA **NCE THE MANSFIELD MISSION" OF THE LATE 1960'S. THE SENATORS AND THEIR PARTY, MOREOVER, PERSONALLY MADE A PARTICULARLY GOOD IMPRESSION ON SAUDI OFFICIALS FROM KING FAISAL ON DOWNWARDS.

2. CODEL FANNIN ARRIVED DHAHRAN JANUARY 16 VIA ARAMCO'S EXECUTIVE JET FROM ABU DHABI. ARAMCO OFFICIALS PROVIDZD BRIEFING ON OIL STATISTICS AND FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF ARAB/ISRAELI DISPUTE AND OIL EMBARGO. SENATOR FANNIN REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER HIGH PRICE OF GULF CRUDE, AND AFFIRMED AMERICA'S INABILITY PAY SUCH A PRICE.
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ARAMCO PRESIDENT JUNGERS SUGGESTED PEACE SETTLEMENT (OR PROGRESS IN THAT DIRECTION) WOULD PERMIT PRODUCTION INCREASES

AND A POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN MARKET PRICE. CODEL SPENT MOST OF DISCUSSION PERIOD ON SUBJECT OF TERMS OF PEACE SETTLEMENT. AFTER BRIEFING, PRESIDENT JUNKERS AND TOP LEVELS OF ARAMCO HOSTED DINNER IN HONOR OF CODEL.

3. WHILE IN JIDDA, CODEL'S ITINERARY GENERALLY FOLLOWED THA*#OUTLINED REFTEL. AUDIENCE WITH KING FAISAL, HOWEVER, (JANUARY 17) WAS RESCHEDULED TO 2030 HOURS LOCAL BECAUSE OF ARRIVAL IN JIDDA OF SYRIAN FORMIN KHADDAM. FOR SAME REASON MEETING BETWEEN CODEL AND MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF PUT FORWARD TO 2130 HOURS (WHEN SAYYID OMAR CAME TO DINNER GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR AKINS IN CODEL'S HONOR).

4. DURING WORKING HOURS, JANUARY 17, CODEL MET WITH MINISTER HISHAM NAZER, CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION, AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF PETRO*EU PRINCE SAUD BIN FAISAL. IN THESE DISCUSSIONS DIMENSIONS OF SAUDI ARABIA'S PLANNING FUTURE WERE DISCUSSED (MINISTER NAZER STATED NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO TOTAL \$55 MILLION), AND PRINCE SAUD REVIEWED WITH SENATORS TECHNICAL AND GEOLOGICAL PROSPECTS FOR SAUDI PRODUCTION LEVELS. PRINCE MADE IT CLEAR *AG HAD NOT BEEN AMONG PROPONENTS OF RECENT DRASTIC HIKES IN GULF CRUDE PRICES; HE WAS ENCOURAGING ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR LIFTING OR EASING OF BOYCOTT IF PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT WOULD JUSTIFY IT.

5. KING FAISAL WAS UNUSUALLY CHEERFUL AND RESPONSIVE DURING HIS AUDIENCE WITH CODEL WHICH LASTED MORE THAN ONE HOUR. HIS MAJESTY TOUCHED UPON NOW FAMILIAR CONCERNS ON ZIONISM AND COMMUNISM, BUT HE WAS MORE THAN USUALLY INTERESTED IN CODEL'S IMPRESSIONS OF U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT, AND PROS*ECTS FO* A MORE BALANCED U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST. AFTER AUDIENCE'S CONCLUSION, MINISTER OF STATE *AQAF COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR T AT HE HAD RARELY SEEN KING SHOW SUCH PLEASURE AND VITALITY IN RECENT MONTHS AT MEETING WITH ANY GROUP OF VISITORS FR M ABROAD.

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6. AT AMBA*SADOR'S RESIDEN*E EVENING OF JANUARY 17, SENA ORS HAD OPPORTUN*TY TO MEET (IN ADDITION TO SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF --*PARA. 3 ABOVE), ROYAL ADVISOR (AND KING'S BROTHER-IN LAW) KAMAL AND MRS. ADHAM, PRINCE AND PRINCESS TURKI BIN FAISAL, PRINCE SAUD BIN FAISAL, AND MR. WAHIB BINZAGR (A LEADING BUSINESSMAN AND FORMER MAJOR OF JIDDA). A NUMBER OF EMBASSY OFFICERS ALSO ATTENDED.

7. CODEL HAD A CHANCE TO REST ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 18.

PROGRAM THAT DAY INCLUDED BRIEF TOUR OF COAST ABOARD
FONMINISTRY'S LAUNCH, FOLLOWED BY INFORMAL TALKS WITH
AMBASSADOR AKINS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF. CODEL
DEPARTED FOR CAIRO 0800, SATURDAY, JANUARY 19.
AKINS

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